[*Translation*]

New Technique In Building Construction

2564. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that CKC Porex, a new technique, is being used in building construction in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government have any scheme to develop this technique throughout the country, particularly in Delhi to expedite the process of building construction, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM):(a) Government is not aware of any product named as 'CKC' Porex'. However, a light weight graded cellular concrete structural material under the trade name of SIPOREX is being manufactured by a firm at Pune, Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) In so far as Government construction agencies like the Central Public Works Department are concerned, there is no scheme at present to adopt or develop this technique. However, the Building materials & Technology Promotion Council set up by the Government recently as a registered Society, have been making sustained efforts to promote prefabricated technology for the construction of houses. The Hindustan Prefab Limited is also engaged in the manufacture of prefab components under the trade name of Vayutan. Similar types of prefab technologies are being developed in other parts of the country also.

[*English*]

National Marine Park At Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu

2565. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for setting up of a national marine park near Rameshwaram in Tamil Nadu and thereby develop tourism in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). The Government of Tamil Nadu have notified their intention to constitute a marine national park comprising 21 islands in the Gulf of Mannar near Rameshwaram, with the objective of conserving the ecology of the area, including the marine biodiversity.

[*Translation*]

Cultural Expansion Schemes

2566. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cultural expansion schemes were to be formulated during the Seventh Five Year Plan under the National Heritage Project;

(b) if so, whether these schemes have been formulated; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). No Cultural Expansion Schemes under the National Heritage Project were either to be formulated or framed during VIIth Five Year Plan by the Archaeological Survey of India.

(c) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

Back-Waters Around Pichavaram Forest

2567. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a scheme to keep clean the back-waters around Pichavaram forest in South Arcot District of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to desilt and deepen the water course enabling to tourists to reach Pichavaram by sea; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). For environmental protection in the back-waters of Pichavaram, a scheme has been launched under the programme on conservation of mangroves. Fencing around mangrove vegetation, dredging of shallow channels, desilting and clearance of debris and regeneration of mangroves are among the activities undertaken in the scheme. During 1988-89, the Union Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 2.87 lakhs to the State Government for implementation of the scheme.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Land For Nehru Planetorium

2568. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the Ministry which had allotted land for the construction of Nehru Planetorium within the premises of Teen Murti Bhawan, New Delhi; and

(b) the conditions prescribed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of Drinking Water in Uttar Pradesh

2569. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of towns where there was shortage of drinking water in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1989-90 and 1990-91;

(b) whether any financial assistance was provided to the State Government by the Union Government for overcoming the said shortage of drinking water during the above mentioned period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?